

## DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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Wednesday, February 1, 1893.

## SOMETHING MUST BE DONE.

The San Juan excitement flashed in the sun, so to speak; that is, it was an expedited form before it had time to do either very much harm or accomplish anything good at all. Some information has been gained of a region concerning which little or nothing was known before by the general public. But as it relates largely to an area where no one is likely to go for anything but the precious metals, this can scarcely be recognized as being among the domain of good, useful or especially desirable things gained. Nothing regarding mineral wealth that was not known before has been brought out, and until gold is found to be the impulsive and impudent can be exercised and solidified, there is no justification for the expenditure of an hour's effort or a dollar in money in that direction. That the great bunch of mountains northwest of those by two or three days' travel, and consequently so much nearer Salt Lake, may contain abundance of hidden treasures is more than probable because evidence which may not be overmuch abundant, all going to show that those mountains are the fountain head from which the golden seeds of the San Juan and lower Colorado come forth.

But even with the fiery mountain sending forth a steady stream of ruddy wealth, there would still be much more requiring attention at home. The farmer will in most cases stick to his farm and thus add substantially, steadily and surely to his possessions while supplying the rest of us with indispensable products; but there are a good many who are not farmers and who could not readily, if at all, turn their hands or attention to that occupation. These are the ones that give us a community the greatest concern. They must be fed and clothed, and to do this they must have sufficient employment. A vast system of charities, a great and continuous relief fund, even if practicable, would not be desirable, and the problem is to supply the employment in such shape and to such extent that those who give as well as those who receive will be benefited. It seems useless appealing to capital; this produces nothing. The ground must be broken, the foundations laid and the field generally prepared before the attention even of capital can be enlisted; in a word, the people as a community must set first and perhaps altogether.

The proposition to erect a copper refinery here is one that commends itself to the good judgment of the people, and if they make a pressure sufficiently uniform and steady in that direction something may be accomplished. Already the Ogden press is calling attention to the fact that the location of that city with its natural advantages entitles it to the first consideration in connection with such an enterprise; but, without detracting in the least from our neighbor's merits, it would be very difficult if not altogether out of the question to name one feature possessed by the junction which we do not also have. Such action, however, generally counts, and we should be making ourselves heard loud and long. Then, as suggested yesterday, the proposed home consumption club must be encouraged—the woolen factories must not only be enabled to continue in business, and profitably so, but if possible others must be established and upheld. There is ample patronage in the Territory for four times the number we now have if only we could organize or in some manner direct it; this means employment to many and the retention of the means whereby employment is afforded within our midst.

Concerted action is imperatively demanded—more so than at any other time in our career. Whether or not we have as much incentive wealth as we ever had; whether or not the mountains shall again turn to the assistance of the valley; whether any more railways shall be constructed or not; one thing remains as a palpable fact—we must as a community do something for ourselves, thus holding what capital we have and inducing more to come out of its hiding place. The condition in which this city finds itself today is like a case of starvation in the midst of plenty; it is one beggaring and bistering crime, suffering and sorrow, while all the agencies needed to create the other and healthful condition exist in abundance.

## CONGRESS AND THE MORMONS.

The House committee on territories has made a report on "A bill to enable the people of Utah to form a constitution and state government, and to be admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original states." The report was presented on January 25, and committed to the committee of the whole House on the state of the Union. The bill referred to is the same as that introduced in the Senate on Wednesday last—January 25th.

The report was made by Mr. Mason, as chairman of the House committee, is a rather elaborate document, opening with the amnesty proclamation of President Harrison, issued on January 4th. Next comes the Church manifesto of September 27, 1890; the motion, relating to the manifesto, which prevailed at the succeeding October Conference; the official denial,

by the First Presidency, in Oct., of the assertions of the Utah Committee regarding polygamy marriage; the petition of the Church authorities for amnesty, and endorsements of Governor Thomas and Judge Zane thereof; the memorial of the last legislative assembly, and the resolutions, relating to statehood, passed by the Territorial and national Republican and Democratic conventions.

The committee state that they "have without doubt or hesitation that the institution of polygamy as taught by the Mormon Church, whether of facts or of practice, is now and daily stamped out and exterminated." Testimony of prominent officials and others is incorporated in the report, showing that this, honesty, morality, society and virtue are general characteristics of the Mormon people. The population, wealth and resources, and educational system of the Territory receive attention, and a synopsis of the proposed enabling act is given.

In the "summary and recommendations"—the latter stating that "there can be but one settlement, but one opinion among all just-minded legislators in Congress upon the question of duty, and that is to admit Utah as a state into the Federal Union"—the report says: "The Mormon Church and its adherents have been subjected for long years to the sharpest and most unkindly criticism, and heretofore all prayers of the Mormon people for statehood have been denied. Inasmuch as your committee have come to the conclusion that the time has arrived for Utah to be admitted, it is eminently proper that the characteristics of the Mormon people shall be made known, not only for the information of Congress, but of the nation. These statements will be repeated from the pulpit and the stump, and among Canadian friends. Many myriad of people who heretofore looked upon the Mormons as moral scoundrels, it is believed, will change their opinion, and admit that a people showing the characteristics that the Mormons possess, are at least worthy of statehood with full admission to all the rights of American citizenship." And from any consideration of the statement, the report of the committee is interesting as a record of the information possessed by the national legislators regarding the worthy characteristics of the community known as Mormons, or Latter-day Saints.

## OUR EDUCATIONAL STATUS.

The News is in receipt of the fifth annual report of the superintendent of public schools for Utah—Hon. Jacob S. Brown. It was submitted to Congress on the 17th of last month, accompanied by the explanatory statement that a number of reports from county superintendents did not reach him till late in the month, hence the delay in its transmission. It occupies twenty pages of printed matter and goes largely into statistics. A time of extreme fairness prevails wherever comment is made, and the information generally is free from bias and unduly colored.

From the report we learn that the number of children of school age had advanced from 60,000 in 1891 to 73,000 last year; of the former 60,000 and of the latter 62,000 were of Mormon parentage, the remainder, of course, being non-Mormon. This indicates a very healthy growth, and when to it is added the additional fact that schools and appliances generally have more than kept pace with it, the showing becomes doubly gratifying. The report closes with the statement that "altogether the outlook is very encouraging in the educational matters of the Territory, to which we can all subscribe."

Utah already stands well to the furthest point of education among the communities composing the United States, and that with increase of population it shows an diminution in the ratio of academic advancement is a condition of things of which we may justly be proud.

## A DISAGREEMENT.

The News and other papers have made mention of some exceptions taken to the strictures upon the life and character of Andrew Johnson and other ex-slave Democrats by Mr. John M. Zane in a recent lecture in this city. We did not hear what Mr. Zane said, but are satisfied of one thing—you might as well tell a mother her baby is an ugly little wretch, of tickle the hind legs of a mule with a briar, or make a slighting remark of Ogden in the presence of a citizen thereof, as to use anything but the softest language regarding "Old Hickory" when the average Democrat can hear it. The memory of the warhorse statesman is enshrouded; and the pedestal occupied by his image is so high and firm that nothing American can climb the one or form anything like a proper estimate of the other—if our Democratic friends are to be believed. As we know, Mr. Zane, as party right, Jackson was a great man and a faulty one, his good points outweighing his bad ones but not altogether obscuring them.

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